

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mold component of a mold assembly that includes a first mold and a second mold which ~~are closed~~ close to thereby define a cavity therebetween for molding a substrate for an optical recording medium, the mold component being mounted to a mounting portion of the first mold of the mold assembly, and comprising:

a stamper having a molding surface ~~for forming~~ configured to form micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the optical recording medium; and

a stamper holder ~~for holding~~ configured to hold said stamper thereon, said stamper holder ~~being formed to have~~ having a generally hollow cylindrical shape such that said stamper holder can be mounted to the mounting portion of the first mold,

wherein said stamper has an insertion hole ~~formed~~ extending through a central portion thereof, the insertion hole having a diameter which is larger than an outer diameter of a cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper ~~has~~ is at a higher temperature than a normal temperature, and, the insertion hole diameter being smaller than the outer diameter of the cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper is at a normal temperature and is not held on the stamper holder ~~is reduced to be slightly smaller than the outer diameter when said stamper has the normal temperature~~, said stamper being held on said stamper holder, with said the cavity-side end of said stamper holder being grasped by a rim of the insertion hole which ~~is reduced in~~ has the smaller

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diameter when the stamper is at the normal temperature ~~of said stamper~~, after having said the cavity-side end of said stamper holder inserted therein at when the stamper is at the higher temperature ~~of said stamper~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A mold component as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stamper holder is configured such that the outer diameter of ~~said~~ the cavity-side end thereof is smaller than an outer diameter of an end of said stamper holder opposite to ~~said~~ the cavity-side end.

3. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly for defining a cavity for molding a substrate for an optical recording medium, comprising:

a first mold having a mounting portion;

a second mold which ~~is closed~~ closes together with said first mold to thereby define ~~the~~ a cavity between said first mold and said second mold;

a stamper having a molding surface ~~for forming~~ configured to form micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the optical recording medium; and

a stamper holder ~~for holding~~ configured to hold said stamper thereon, said stamper holder ~~being formed to have~~ having a generally hollow cylindrical shape such that said stamper holder can be mounted to said mounting portion of said first mold,

wherein said stamper has an insertion hole ~~formed~~ extending through a central portion thereof, the insertion hole having a diameter which is larger than an outer diameter of a cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper has is at a higher

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temperature than a normal temperature, and the insertion hole diameter being smaller than the outer diameter of the cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper is at a normal temperature and is not held on the stamper holder ~~is reduced to be slightly smaller than the outer diameter when said stamper has the normal temperature~~, said stamper being held on said stamper holder, with said the cavity-side end of said stamper holder being grasped by a rim of the insertion hole which ~~is reduced in~~ has the diameter when the stamper is at the normal temperature ~~of said stamper~~, after having said the cavity-side end of said stamper holder inserted therein at when the stamper is at the higher temperature ~~of said stamper~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said stamper holder is configured such that the outer diameter of said the cavity-side end thereof is smaller than an outer diameter of an end of said stamper holder opposite to said the cavity-side end.

5. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a sprue bushing disposed in said first mold, and having said stamper holder being mounted on an outer periphery thereof, and

wherein a cavity-side end face of said stamper holder is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to a cavity-side end face of said sprue bushing, and wherein the molding surface of said stamper is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to the cavity-side end face of said stamper holder.

6. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a sprue bushing disposed in said first mold, ~~and having~~ said stamper holder being mounted on an outer periphery thereof, ~~and~~

wherein a cavity-side end face of said stamper holder is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to a cavity-side end face of said sprue bushing, and

wherein the molding surface of said stamper is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to the cavity-side end face of said stamper holder.

7. (New) A mold assembly, comprising:

a stamper configured to mold a surface of a substrate for an optical recording medium, said stamper having an insertion hole; and

a stamper holder, said stamper holder including a holding portion inserted within the insertion hole, wherein said stamper is secured to the holding portion of said stamper holder by heat shrinkage.

8. (New) The mold assembly according to claim 7, wherein a height of the holding portion is less than a height of the stamper.